

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, June 25, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL**, Vice-President Villareal called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Nielsen, Soglin, James, Biggs, and Dailey. Absent was President Wasko.

Staff: Franz

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Minutes of April 23, 2009 meeting were approved with recommended edits. M/S James / Dailey.

3-A. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR ALAMEDA FAMILY SERVICES

Speaker: Irene Kudarauskas, Executive Director of Alameda Family Services (AFS) explained that AFS had the opportunity to apply for an Early Head Start grant and was requesting a letter of support from the board. She explained that the expansion of childcare, particularly infant and toddler care is a critical need in the City of Alameda, and that the addition of Early Head Start services will increase the overall slots available to infants and toddlers. She noted the program will provide continuous and coordinated care for children and families from pregnancy through five years of age and it will increase a family's access to needed resources. By partnering with the infant/toddler/preschool programs of the Alameda Unified School District, it will strengthen the network of supports and services available to low-income families with children from birth to five. This is the first time in ten years that a grant opportunity is available for these services.

Nielsen: How many families will be served?

IK: Seventy-two to Seventy-five families will be served.

Villareal: What is size of grant?

IK: We have not yet determined how much we will apply for. The Grant is due July 7.

Biggs: When will grant start?

IK: Funding will start January, 2010.

Dailey: How long is grant for?

IK: The grant is for two years.

Nielsen: Are services also available for developmentally disabled?

IK: Yes, if low-income and meet guidelines.

M/S Dailey/Biggs for SSHRB to provide letter of support to accompany AFS Grant proposal. Unanimous. It was agreed that President Wasko and Member James would review draft letter provided by Ms. Kudarauskas and edit / revise as appropriate. **(Final Letter Attached)**

3-B. PARTICIPATION IN THE MAYOR'S 4TH OF JULY PARADE

SSHRB has traditionally participated in the Mayor's 4th of July Parade. At the May meeting of ATAH, it was decided that a request to participate in this year's parade and request SSHRB funds to be allocated for the entry. With the cancellation of the May meeting, plans continued to move forward to rent a flatbed truck, decorate it, and have SSHRB members joined by others members from Alameda's diverse community participate in the parade.

After a brief discussion, decision was made to participate in the parade and to authorize up to \$750 for the

SSHRB parade entry. M/S (James/Soglin) and unanimous.

3-C. **WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORTS**

- *Alamedans Together Against Hate* Villareal

After the AUSD Board's passing of the Caring School Curriculum, ATAH convened a meeting with representatives from AUSD, CARE, and Alameda Clergy. Both conservative and liberal faith perspectives were represented. During the discussion, Rev. Caldwell explained Alameda's Evangelical congregations felt their views were "not heard" and that both ATAH and the City supported liberal positions.

Plans to hold Community Forums (Clergy, AUSD concerns, and Police Profiling) were discussed as a topic for a second meeting. ATAH members expressed the hope to look forward beyond just the curriculum and work together to build a hate-free community.

- *Assessment and Awareness Workgroup* Nielsen

The Dental Clinic is anticipated to open in September, and outreach will begin to identify and reach those who qualify for treatment.

A celebration of the 2nd Anniversary of Health-Is-Not-Just-Health-Care was held on June 5th. Representatives from the cities of San Leandro, San Lorenzo and Alameda were joined by Supervisor Lai-Bitker, her staff, and Dr. Iton. Future funding will target programs focusing on Youth resiliency. The Child and Youth Development Survey project is underway.

- *Family Services Workgroup* (No Report)

- *Sister City Workgroup* (As reported by Franz –staff)

By-Laws are being finalized to facilitate workgroup spin-off to a non-profit (Alameda Sister City Association).

- *Resource-Sharing Workgroup* Biggs

Workgroup met in late April. Grant opportunities identified at the meeting had timing and matching fund issues which prevented them from proceeding.

4. **BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

Biggs: A.C. Transit is restructuring their service to accommodate a 15% budget cut. Changes to the #63 busline in particular will have an adverse effect of service for APOC and other West End residents. People on the island will have a difficult time accessing the Food Bank, and those on the West End will have easier access to Oakland than to Alameda Towne Centre.

Member Soglin suggested a presentation from AC Transit to the Board in July. (Staff will try to arrange)

Member Biggs announced there will be a Healthcare Hearing at Alameda Hospital on June 27th.

Member James announced National Night Out on August 4th, and the 5th year reunion of the closing of Harbor Island during the last week of August.

5. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** None

6. **ADJOURNMENT** - M/S to adjourn at 9:25 (James/Biggs) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Franz
Community Development Coordinator

July 2, 2009

Office of Head Start
Administration for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Services

The Community Needs Assessment of the City of Alameda has identified a need for increased childcare for families that live in our city. The need is especially great for infant/toddler care in families with low-income and limited education. The Social Service Human Relations Board for the City of Alameda identifies childcare as a high priority need and advises the Mayor and the City Council to leverage funds from Community Development Block grants to help support childcare. The need extends far beyond what we are able to address with limited funds. Because we believe that the need for early intervention and childcare is so great we have voted unanimously to support the Early Head Start proposal of Alameda Family Services.

The addition of Early Head Start services will increase the overall slots available to infants and toddlers in Alameda. The new services will provide continuous and coordinated care for children and families from pregnancy through five years of age, and it will increase a family's access to needed resources. By partnering with the infant/toddler/preschool programs of the Alameda Unified School District, we will strengthen the network of supports and services available to low-income families with children from birth to five.

We believe that Alameda Family Services has the capacity to implement an Early Head Start program based on the complex array of services they have provided to the City of Alameda residents since 1970. We strongly encourage the Department of Health and Human Services to award the Early Head Start grant to Alameda Family Services. We are confident that the services provided will make a difference in the City of Alameda.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Wasko
President
Social Service Human Relations Board

CW:JF:sb